

Accessing 2020 Census Redistricting Data on data.census.gov: Mapping Geographies

Transcript

September 2021

Hi, my name is Rex. Today, I'm going to show you how to find and map P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data on data.census.gov. For this video tutorial, we will be using the newly released 2020 Redistricting Data to demonstrate the mapping feature on our site. So, let's get started!

Let's say you want to find race data for legislative areas in your state. To get started, go to data.census.gov, and click on the Advanced Search button located directly underneath the Single Search bar. Using the filters that are available on the left side of the screen, choose the Redistricting Data by choosing the 'Survey' filter and then selecting the 'Decennial Census' option. Scroll down the list until you see 'Redistricting Data' with 'P.L. 94-171' in parentheses. For this example, search, let's select congressional districts from Virginia as our geography. Through the 'Geography' filter, you will select 'Congressional Districts' and then 'Virginia' as the state. Then, select 'All Congressional Districts for the 116th Congress in Virginia' and click the 'Search' button at the bottom right corner of the screen. Then, choose a table related to race and/or ethnicity from the results page. For this example, I chose table P3, 'Race for the Population 18 Years and Over'. Once you choose table P3, click on the 'Maps' tab that is on the top middle part of the screen above the table.

This will show a map that will zoom in on the state of Virginia and display the 116th congressional district boundaries. The map will automatically default to show the 2020 PL Total Population of each Congressional District. To change the data variable that the map is showing, click on the chevron directly to the right of the 'Total' button, which is located on the top left side of the page above the map view. From there, you can scroll down the list and select any of the other variables that are present in the table to view within the map. For example, if I want to view the population of those who identify as Asian alone, I will scroll down this list until I see the variable 'Population of one race-Asian alone-Total'. Once you click on that variable, the table will automatically update to show that variable on the map. Notice that the map updates with data for the new variable I selected, and the map now shows that Congressional districts in darker shades of blue have higher number of people who identify as Asian. You can also use the search bar at the top of the variable dropdown menu to search for a specific variable. For example, if you want to find all variables that contain the word 'black', I will type it into the search bar at the top of the dropdown menu. Once I type in 'black', the menu will automatically update to show variables that contain the word 'black' in it. If I was looking for the population of people who identify as Black or African American and White, I would choose the variable out of this search that says, "Two or More Races—

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Population of two races—White; Black or African American—Total”, and the map will automatically update to reflect the variable I’ve selected.

I also want to mention the ‘Customize Map’ button on the top right corner of the screen. If you click this button, a sidebar will appear on the left side of the screen that provides an expanded map legend, as well as some features that allows you to customize the look of the map. If you click on the gear icon located underneath the legend, you will be able to change the color scheme of the map, as well as the data classes and classification types that are displayed in the map view. You can also click on the ‘View Table’ button, which shows the data by geography and total population in a pop-up menu. To learn more about the ‘Customize Map’ button, I highly recommend checking out our other Data Gems on mapping, which can be found through our Resources Page or through Census Academy.

I hope this tutorial provided insight on how to find and map the 2020 PL 94-171 Redistricting Data through data.census.gov. For more guidance on using our site, please visit our Resources page at the link provided below. Thank you, and have a wonderful day!